

## Morning Telegram.

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Gov. BIGOLE succeeds better in giving good advice than he did in putting it into practice.

The price of wheat bounded forward two cents again yesterday in New York. Business prospects continue to brighten.

Gov. HILL, of New York, emulates the editorials of the *Okolona States*. In his maiden message he makes a paragraph of nearly every sentence.

And now, gentlemen, let us hope that you will commence at once to push along the work of legislation, making the session as short as possible.—Gov. Alger.

Who says the South is not in the front rank of progress? The Georgia Legislature places its clerical work in the hands of women and experts say their work is 50 per cent. better than any ever done by men. This is evidence either in favor of women's rights or that the experts are very gallant.

The recommendation made by ex-Gov. Bigole that the election laws of Michigan be changed to the model of New York's laws, with boards of inspectors and clerks made up from opposing political parties is a wise one. This would include a uniformity of style in ballots, and would protect the wishes of the voters.

THE TELEGRAM yields to no journal in the country in its loyalty to the Republican party, but it is not so pessimistic as never to see a possibility of good anywhere except within strict party lines, and always to snarl at everything a Democrat does or says. It is not disposed, therefore, like some of its contemporaries, to read all sorts of duplicity between the lines in Gov. Cleveland's civil-service letter. The President-elect has sins enough to account for, Heaven knows, without anticipating any for the future. When Cleveland violates the civil-service law it will be time enough to condemn him.

Gov. ALGER's message is characteristic of the man. With only half a dozen lines of introduction, and not a word of rhetorical effect from beginning to end, he deals directly and pointedly with a large number of practical questions demanding legislative attention. Among the recommendations which will especially win commendation are those advising the adoption of the Ohio law concerning the collection of taxes, the submission of an amendment creating a Board of Pardons, the passing of a law regulating the sentencing of prisoners to the Ionia House of Correction and the abolition of contract labor in prisons. His closing counsel to the legislature urging the members "to push things" deserves to become historic.

### THE HOUSE ORGANIZATION.

The question as to the organization of the State House of Representatives is settled. The Republican caucus nominees were elected. The only question that has existed related to the attitude of the two so-called workingmen from Detroit, Messrs. Egan and McClelland. Some of the smart fusion managers thought they saw a chance to steal the organization from the Republicans by securing the apostasy of these men. It was suggested that the seven workingmen hold the balance of power, and that they should name one of their own number, and it was intimated that their choice would receive the votes of the Democratic members. No such suggestion was made when it was believed that the Democrats had a majority of the members elect. When the name of Mr. Brant was put forward as the candidate of the workingmen the scheme was transparent. Brant had been announced as the Democratic candidate when it was supposed that the Democrats had a majority. Every pressure was brought to bear upon Egan and McClelland to induce them to support Brant as a workingman. They manfully withstood all seductive offers and voted for the Republican nominee. They did right. They were endorsed by the Republicans and elected by Republican votes. The Democrats, including Mr. Brant, did all they could to defeat their election. The lesson of the affair is that the Democrats have failed in their plan to have themselves held up as the party of the workingmen. The workingmen have no distinct political organization. The Republican party has always been and is yet the true and best friend of the workingman. It protects the industries which give him employment. It gave the public lands to actual settlers, and passed the only law that ever has been passed to preserve the independence of the American workingmen against the cheap labor of foreign countries. The Democratic party would abolish protection. It degraded labor and laborers to the level of slaves. The great majority of its members were brought up to believe that labor is degrading, that the proper position of

those who work is slavery. The Democratic party opposed the homestead law. It tried to settle some of the fairest of our territory with a slave-holding aristocracy instead of building up free homes, occupied by free men, as the Republican party did. Some workingmen, in the face of all this, are able to support that party and keep it alive. By what course of reasoning is beyond our ken. The invitation of the Democratic spider to the workingmen to "walk into my parlor" has been respectfully declined in this case. In the last Legislature the measures asked by workingmen were passed by Republican votes. The action of Egan and McClelland in refusing to array the workingmen against the Republican party was wise, and entitles them to the highest credit. It will be endorsed by workingmen themselves who have their own best interests at heart.

### CURRENT COMMENT.

Philadelphia Times: The red flag of anti-Cameron revolt doesn't flap very ferociously on Capitol Hill.

New York Sun: We advise our esteemed contemporary, the *Times*, to sell its jackass and buy an intelligent cat.

Kansas City Journal: Mr. Cleveland's civil-service letter is a thorn in the side of the Democratic tiger, and he is viciously biting and gnawing at it to extract it, if he can.

Harrisburg Telegraph: The legislator is here. Just now he is making slates. It is worthy of note that the average legislator can make slates with greater facility than he can makelaws.

New York Sun: They talk of putting Mr. McDonald into the Cabinet, but the truth remains unquestioned that the fittest man in all the United States for Secretary of the Interior is Mr. Holman.

Chicago Inter-Ocean: There is no use in mining matters and whining over it. Cleveland and Hendricks will appoint just as many Republicans to office as Blaine and Logan would have appointed Democrats had they succeeded.

Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette: Of course Hurd will be seated. No matter about the election, he will be seated, and he will not hurt the Republican party. Besides it would end him politically in the Toledo district. It is the Congress to be chosen in 1886 that the Republicans will carry.

New York Sun: We will all of us heartily join with our esteemed contemporary, the *Omaha Herald*, when, in wishing the Hon. William M. Everts a Happy New Year, it expresses the hope that he may live long enough to become a Senator from New York. We hope so, too, no matter how long it takes.

Detroit Post: Now that Michigan politics have probably seen the last of Gov. Bigole, let us all imitate his own clemency toward the erring, and grant him a pardon. He was a unique and peculiar figure in the history of Michigan; and we shall not look upon his life again, as long as the people of the State retain their common sense.

### The Office Cat.

A very good thing for a newspaper shop. Where the copy by bundle comes in. Or tell which end to begin. And where the best heads must grow weary at times.

So bothered by this or by that, Is an excellent office cat.—A capable, knowing, and quite thoroughgoing. Responsible office cat.

This business-like cat, in its feline way, Soberly wanders about, Absorbing in quiet, by night or by day, All copy that lies under doubt; And loosed by its yard becomes lost to the sight, And wry a bore is laid flat.

By this sensible office cat—This useful, laborious, never apologetic, Edible old office cat.

The editor, missing some bothersome thing, No longer the subject pursues, But strokes the sleek cat, as it sits at his side, With a smile that is meant to amuse; And loosed by its yard becomes lost to the sight, To be sure he will never say "Scat!"

To that beautiful old office cat—That careful, industrious, highly illustrious, Truly good old office cat.—N. Y. Sun.

### Bangs Recrimped.

St. John swore off. Gladstone detests tobacco. Governor Cleveland will keep a diary.

Dexter is twenty-seven years old and can trot as gamely as ever.

Telegraphing is as cheap now as postage—was half a century ago.

Wood is worth \$12 per cord in Tombstone, Arizona, and scarce at that price.

An ambitious Boston lady paid a publisher \$10,000 to bring out her novel.

Ohio is ahead again. She had a greater number of murders in 1884 than any other state.

California raised in 1884 a bushel of wheat to every man, woman and child in the United States.

According to the *Atlanta Constitution*, "the most popular invitation to drink is 'Let's go in and make an assignment.'"

A Philadelphia man has a mania for smashing looking glasses, and has broken 200 in the past year and paid damages in full.

Dr. Mary Walker hunted through the executive mansion and the capitol at Albany Friday, but was unable to find Governor Cleveland.

Ex-President Hayes has ninety-eight Leghorn hens, and he spends most of his time gathering eggs and doctoring his chickens for the pip.

There is one show on the road that has burst six times this season. After every disaster the pieces were gathered up and the fight renewed.

The 24 o'clock system is not new. An Italian physician, writing in 1602, mentions the call of a friend at 22 o'clock, "an hour when he and I should be in bed."

In some parts of Minnesota one can travel a hundred miles and find none but Swedes, and some of their congregations number over a thousand. They also have several missions among the Finns.

A young man of Big Rapids sent his best gift, a case containing finger scissors, nail brush, etc., and then got mad because, in return, gave him a cake of soap, fine tooth comb and Turkish towel.

Mrs. Jerome Bonaparte, of Washington, announces that her daughter, Miss Constance Edgar, will take the veil about Easter time. Miss Edgar graduated last June at the Georgetown Academy. She accompanied her mother to Newport last summer.

The average duration of life among well-to-do people is forty-five years; among the middle class it is twenty-five years; among the laboring class, twenty years. Among 100 people the wealthy would not number more than five, the middle classes not more than fifteen, and the working class eighty.

Forty years ago a man in Emanuel County, Georgia, sold his wife for a jug of whisky. Several days later he was presented with the wife of a man who had grown tired of her. The woman first mentioned was afterward traded again for a bushel of corn. All hands then settled down in the same neighborhood and have lived there ever since. Their descendants are among the most respected people of the county.

## GOV. ALGER'S MESSAGE.

[Continued from First Page.]

—This asylum is in an advanced stage of construction, and, according to the report of the trustees, will need an additional appropriation for its completion. I also urge that this appropriation be made at once that the asylum may be completed at an early date, as it is very necessary to remove from the other asylums that dangerous class of patients who ought not to be confined with others than their own class. I have thus recommended that these asylums be granted the full amount asked for, as I believe the sums named are necessary for their completion; and while the sums aggregate a large amount we must bear in mind that these institutions are crowded far beyond their capacities, and will be scarcely less so when the two now in process of completion are occupied, as there are hundreds of insane in the State who are not and cannot be accommodated within their walls, and Michigan is always generous toward any unfortunate class who are unable to care for themselves.

### JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution submitting an amendment to the Constitution creating a Board of Pardons, who shall have full and exclusive power over that department.

Also that a joint resolution be adopted submitting an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in the State.

On account of the large number of disabled soldiers in this State and the healthfulness of its climate, I recommend that a joint resolution be adopted asking Congress to make an appropriation for a Soldiers' Home, to be located at some favorable point within the State.

### BOUNTIES.

There have been many pledges for bounties made to men who enlisted in the army that have not been fulfilled. I trust you will give this matter your careful consideration. No pledges should be more scrupulously kept than those made to the defenders of our Government.

### STATE FISHERIES.

By the Commissioners' report you will see that fish culture is being made a success. If their recommendations can be carried out the slight expense necessarily incurred in this department will, in due time, be returned many times from the fish thus raised and protected.

### THE WORLD'S EXPOSITION AT NEW ORLEANS.

Michigan is represented at this Exposition and a fine display of its products is already on the ground. The amount necessary to defray its expenses will not exceed \$11,000, and I therefore recommend that a sum not exceeding that amount be appropriated for that purpose.

### MILITARY.

The military organizations of the State are in excellent condition and all our citizens take a just pride in them. I recommend that a law be enacted directing the State Treasurer to pay all the legal expenses incurred in case a company or any body of State troops is ordered to any location in the State to suppress riots, or for other purposes, the State collecting the same from the county. Under the present law the county to which they are ordered is obliged to pay the bill, but frequently it is impossible for the troops to collect the money for a long time, and as there is no other provision for paying these expenses the companies have to advance the money both for transportation, rations and other necessary expenditures.

### STANDARD TIME.

As all the railroads in the State use Central Standard time, and many of its cities and towns have adopted the same, I recommend that a law be enacted making Central Standard time legal within the State.

### STATE SWAMP LAND COMMISSIONER.

I recommend that the Commissioner appointed for the ensuing term be allowed a clerk, but not a deputy; that all matters pertaining to the office be closed within that time and turned over to the Commissioner of the State Land office, and that the office be then abolished.

### COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION.

I have debated somewhat, in my own mind, as to which is the wisest course to recommend in relation to this office; that is whether to continue or abolish it. There have within the last two years over 2,000,000 people passed through this State or close by its southern boundary for the great Northwest, who have migrated from other States or have come this country to make homes for themselves. Men are constantly leaving the old States for a home in the West. If a successful effort can be made to turn a portion of this great tide of people into our State by informing them of the superiority of its soil and the advantages of living near a market, the cost of conducting the office (which is much smaller than many mercantile firms pay for advertising their business) would be well invested, and returned to the State many fold in the way of taxes upon improvements made by them. Of course the great railroad corporations hold out every possible inducement to people going west by glowing advertisements, etc., for the purpose of securing their transportation. I think if Michigan would properly advertise her undeveloped lands, and at a small cost a prudent man were stationed in New York to select from the emigrants those who have money to purchase lands, and induce them to come here, the benefits would justify the expenditure. I have, therefore, decided to recommend that the former be carefully tried and that the office be not abolished until such trial is fairly made.

While our State is open to the world, no special efforts should be made to import labor purely as such, while so many men are unemployed as at present.

### THE IONIA HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

This institution needs, in my opinion, a thorough overhauling, and I commend to your careful consideration many suggestions and recommendations made by the Warden in his official report. Under the present law this prison is filled far beyond its capacity with convicts, nearly one-half of whom are sentenced by Justices of the Peace from different parts of the State, mostly for drunkenness; and many instances of abuse are known, and doubtless many more exist which are not known. A man found intoxicated by a Constable or other officer is frequently taken before a Justice of the Peace and sentenced to this prison for that offense. He is thus degraded for life, as is also his family, for the offense of getting drunk, or perhaps because he has no friend to intercede for him. The abuses that are liable to occur can best be described by the following which took place during Gov. Jerome's term of office. The facts were given me by the Hon. E. C. Watkins, then its Warden:

A man arrived in Saginaw and applied at the office of a lumber firm for work. He was told to come in in the afternoon and

he would be hired. Upon going out he met a man upon the street who asked him if he was a stranger, and answered that he was and from Canada and seeking employment. The man accosting him, who it seems was an officer, informed the stranger that it was necessary to "register" upon coming there, and took him to an office where another man, who it appears was a Justice of the Peace, was sitting at a desk. After remaining there a short time he was taken out and conducted to the depot by the officer and taken directly to Ionia under arrest. Arriving at the House of Correction the Warden examined his papers and found he had been committed for a year as a vagrant. He protested his innocence and the Warden immediately wrote the facts as given by the man to Gov. Jerome who pardoned him, and, I understand, took some action against the officer and Justice of the Peace who had thus conspired to send this man to prison for the purpose of getting the fees.

How far this abuse can extend can only be imagined; I therefore recommend that a law be passed prohibiting any person from being sentenced to this institution by a Justice of the Peace, and that no prisoner be sent there for a less term than six months. This institution should not be used as a "sobering off" place for men who occasionally get intoxicated. Such men should be kept in the county jails where the offense is committed. I am informed that officers frequently make long journeys with a single prisoner where there are several to be taken, simply to increase their traveling fees. According to the State Treasurer's report there was paid for transportation of convicts to that institution during the past year the sum of \$26,682 13, while the cost of carrying convicts for the State Prison at Jackson for the same period was \$4,805 93. Convicts received at this institution are clothed in prisoner's garb and when discharged are furnished new clothing if that worn by them when taken in is not suitable for them to appear as comfortably dressed men. This item makes up a large account. There are two classes which should not be sent to that prison. First, those who are picked up when intoxicated, before mentioned, and, second, worthless tramps who have no pride or home and are willing to go there for the winter. The prison is now filled to overflowing with little work for its inmates, there being more than 200 confined within its walls in excess of its accommodations, and at the rate it is being filled, if that class of people are to be imprisoned as convicts, the State of Michigan cannot build prisons fast enough to hold those who are convicted, especially if the present stringent times should continue to exist. I sincerely hope this matter will be thoroughly investigated during the session of this Legislature, and the earlier it is done the better for the public good.

### THE CONTRACT LABOR SYSTEM, ETC.

I recommend the abolition of the contract labor system, and that a law be passed prohibiting the importation of criminals from other States or Territories to be incarcerated within the walls of any prison in the State. It concentrates criminals in Michigan and competes with the honest labor of the State. Michigan is not so poor as to need aid of that kind.

I have asked the different Boards connected with the several State institutions to make their wants simply what is absolutely necessary for carrying them through the next two years, and while under the present financial pressure not a dollar should be expended not absolutely necessary. I am sure that you will see that none of the State institutions suffer for lack of means to carry them along.

I recommend that as great a reduction in taxes be made as possible. That no money be collected for the purchase at a large premium of State bonds not yet maturing, or for any other purpose not absolutely essential, but that the greatest possible economy be practiced in every department of the State.

And now, gentlemen, let us hope that you will commence at once to push along the work of legislation, making the session as short as possible.

I hope and trust that the greatest harmony may prevail in all your deliberations and that all our actions may be guided by the Divine Hand.

RUSSELL A. ALGER.

Executive Office, Lansing, Jan. 8, 1885.

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